of distances. In the presence of enterprising merchants, 443
particularly the atar or itinerant traders who will be discussed below, a cultivator in some outlying village need not undertake the arduous journey across broken country to Rowanduz to retail his products and to purchase the materials required by his home.

The agricultural village can enjoy a certain amount 433
of self-sufficiency insofar as its food supply is concerned, although the specialization in tobacco has transformed this to some extent, but there are a number of other requirements which only the merchant can satisfy, many of them "necessary luxuries" without which life is hardly bearable. For reasons which can only be speculated upon, the Kurdish villager is today far from being the master of his environment, and there are undoubtedly present a number of mineral, vegetable, and animal products which could be utilized to good advantage. He is no innovator and his knowledge of [176]
what we call woodcraft, the ingenious exploitation of the environment at a primitive level, is practically nothing. Once a young agha exhibited as a trophy an ibex skin, 281
dried hard and stiff, which, if properly tanned, would have made an excellent rug or covering. An inquiry, and later investigation, revealed that only a few villagers knew the techniques of preparing skins; almost all of the leather which is locally produced and put into use is what is commonly called rawhide. The villager thus re- 432
quires a great complex of things, of which only a few are cigarette papers, cloth, cooking utensils, iron or steel

tools, kerosene, matches, rice, salt, shoes, and sugar. 432 ●
It must finally be stressed that the economy is one of money, however minute the sums involved may be. Agricultural and dairy products are sold for cash, and items such as have been listed above are purchased on the same terms. Barter, while it may still occur in some situations, [437]
is not the typical mode of exchange, and the system of values is always expressed in terms of money.

The town of Rowandus, occupying the sloping top of 361
a great bluff, has roughly three divisions. The lowest is that first encountered when arriving from the valley below and contains a number of government buildings, a scattering of residences, and a large amount of vacant land, unoccupied because of its higher prices. At a steeper point of the slope the houses increase in number and the center of the town is reached, the mercantile area [366]
of closely adjoining shops and dwellings. This section merges with the heavily settled upper part of the town, almost wholly residential in character, whose houses gradually thin out around the hills behind the town. The mercantile area or bazar begins with a steeply sloping street lined on both sides with shops which terminates in a wide area, a "square" flanked by the great mosque (jama'a al-kabir), the garage, and two chaykhanas. From this square another street of shops leads upward, finally reaching a little clearing surrounded by shops from which three lanes branch out into the houses of the upper town.

Some of the more specialized shops of the bazar will 347